

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 26 to 30, of the Substitute Specification, with the following amended paragraph:

The rods 3 may be held axially by a single spacer grid 13, e.g. the top ~~grid~~ grid 13, which is then provided for this purpose with springs for thrusting the rods 3 against dimples cut out in the plates 15 or fitted thereto.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 20 to 27, of the Substitute Specification, with the following amended paragraph:

As can be seen in Figure 9, the plates 21 are disposed within the group of rods 3. More precisely, the plates 21 extend between the layer 29 of rods 3 and the inwardly adjacent layer 47 of rods 3, e.g. the layer that has ten rods 3 and three guide tubes ~~33~~ 11 per side in the example shown. To make the plates 21 visible in Figure 8, the two rows of rods 3 situated at the front of this view have been omitted.